

Game Over; High Score: Otto Sitterly

OSWEGO, N.Y., August 24, 2010 – With his seventh-place finish in Saturday's shortened 30-lap feature, Otto Sitterly joined Greg Furlong as the only supermodified drivers to win four track championships at Oswego Speedway. In an equally astounding accomplishment, Sitterly joined Doug Didero, Mike Muldoon and the late Jim Champine as the only drivers to win the title three years in succession. Didero and Muldoon did it during their dominant years in the 1990s, while Champine accomplished the feat from 1972 to '74.

Sitterly built a formidable point lead with four straight feature wins to start the season. With Oswego's tight point system and Sitterly's ability to finish races, and usually in the top three, a serious challenge to Otto's title was doubtful as the season hit mid-June.

Although the G&I Homes-sponsored Hawk Jr. No. 7 has not visited victory lane since Otto's fourth win June 5, no driver got much closer than 100 points down to the Canajoharie driver throughout the second half of the season. "The Jersey Jet" Joey Payne ended up second to Sitterly for the second straight year. Payne finished the season 91 points down. Pat Lavery, Ray Graham and Dave McKnight rounded out the top five, each over 100 markers back of the champion.

"It feels pretty good," Otto said, speaking of his 2010 title. "I've got to thank John Nicotra, all the guys on the crew, and my wife and kids, of course. Now we're looking ahead two weeks to the Classic. I know we have two good cars for that. I'm very much looking forward to time trialing, and starting up where we belong."

Sitterly has been forced to start Oswego features in 10th to 12th position each week since late May. It was clear in his post-race interview Saturday night that some drivers are beginning to test Otto's patience.

"We had a real good car tonight. You get into a nice groove, the car feels good and you just try to pick off one at a time. But it was a rough night. (There was) caution after caution, and there are a few guys that are border-line out of control. I try not to drive off my bumper, and I had a few guys around me doing that tonight, almost racing in desperation. I hate to talk that way, but I'm very disappointed with some of what I see going on out there," Sitterly admitted.

In the week leading up to Saturday's race, the Nicotra Racing team was a focal part of the annual pre-Classic silly season. About one week ago, Nicotra sold the Xtreme Chassis super that Davey Hamilton campaigned in last year's Classic and in several Oswego races this season. Nicotra sold the mount to Ohio's Craig Reed and its original driver, Dave Shullick Jr., after struggles with the car plagued the latter part of Hamilton's Oswego season.

Hamilton will move to the G&I Homes No. 6 Hawk Jr., a car that's been used for Otto's ISMA winged super ventures this season. Bobby Santos III, who drove the No. 6 Nicotra Hawk Jr. in last year's Classic and had the seat lined up for this year, is now planned to drive a brand-new Mike Muldoon super, which has yet to see the track.

About Nicotra Racing

Nicotra Racing is sponsored by G&I Homes Inc., 5 Brothers Produce, S&L Beans, Florida Vegetable, Flavor First Produce, V.L. Walker Co, Georgia Crate & Basket, Rite-Pak Produce, Quality First Produce, Magnolia Packing, Beaver River Distribution, N&N Corporation, Burnac Produce Limited and Provincial Fruit Co.

For more information, visit www.NicotraRacing.com. To contact Nicotra Racing, e-mail John@NicotraRacing.com.

Press release written by Keith Shampine.

Quotes courtesy of www.LakesideRacingNews.com.



Jim Feeney photo

Mike "Pinner" Johnson photo, www.gosupers.com